



Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street SW, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

October 23, 2017

RE: **Comments on E-Rate Category 2 in WC Docket 13-184**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments the issue E-Rate and its benefits to Indiana residents in response to the Federal Communications Commission Public Notice Docket 13-184.

As we understand, about one in six Hoosiers does not have access to broadband and many more cannot afford it. There are 236 public libraries with a total 428 branches in Indiana, over 1,000 schools and over 120 colleges or universities. Many of these institutions provide access to students, parents, future employees, and taxpayers to their broadband internet, often through Wi-Fi. High-speed internet is required to submit homework, research a paper, apply for a job or renew your driver's license online. Many Indiana K-12 students use tablets that require Wi-Fi to complete homework, access textbooks and to communicate with faculty, including on e-learning days. Low-income students and adults especially rely on the public libraries for their Wi-Fi access.

**Indiana residents rely on the internet supported by Category 2 WI-Fi and internal connections funding, as many libraries offer access to this Wi-Fi around the clock. In this last round of funding, Indiana residents in the service areas of 74 branches of 20 public libraries benefited from over \$811,000 of Category 2 funding.** Access to high-speed internet is critical for student success, for skilling up in employment through online training or distance education, for finding and applying for jobs, for completing government transactions and for participating in the modern economy.

We urge continuation of E-Rate eligibility for libraries and schools. Please maintain funding through the full five-year period.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lucinda Nord  
Executive Director

*Indiana Library Federation leads, educates and advocates to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.*

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